

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

WYKANUSH VENTURES LLC, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

Case No. C21-5710-DGE-MLP

V.

ORDER

KARSTAN WALKER, *et al.*,

Defendants.

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiffs' Response ("Response" (dkt. # 30)) to the Court's Order to show cause why this matter should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute ("Order" (dkt. # 29)). Plaintiffs filed this action in September 2021 and obtained default against the Defendants by February 2022. (Dkt. ## 1, 16, 24.) In June 2022, Plaintiffs' former counsel withdrew and new counsel made their appearances. (Dkt. ## 26-28.) In response to the Court's request, Plaintiffs' new counsel stated in a declaration that Plaintiffs' file was only recently reviewed by former counsel and did not contain "any draft motion for judgment of default, or any affidavit(s) in support of the motion for judgment of default, or notes related to the same[.]".

Plaintiffs' new counsel also declared that they had no Decl. (dkt. # 31) at ¶¶ 4-6. Counsel represent that they are preparing subpoenas duces tecum to gather the necessary information to file for default judgment. (*Id.* at ¶ 7.) Plaintiffs

1 anticipate filing a motion for default judgment within 90 days. (*Id.* at ¶ 8; Response at 4.)

2 It is within the inherent power and discretion of the court to dismiss a civil case for lack
 3 of prosecution. Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); *see McKeever v. Block*, 932 F.2d 795, 797 (9th Cir. 1991)
 4 (failure to prosecute must be unreasonable in order to support dismissal); *Ash v. Cvetkov*, 739
 5 F.2d 493, 496 (9th Cir. 1984). The Court weighs five factors to determine if involuntary
 6 dismissal for lack of prosecution is proper. *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th Cir.
 7 2002) (citing *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992)). Specifically, the Court
 8 considers: (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
 9 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendant; (4) the public policy favoring
 10 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Id.*
 11 Dismissal is proper where at least four factors support dismissal or where at least three factors
 12 "strongly" support dismissal. *Beck v. Pike*, 2017 WL 530354, at *5 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 9, 2017)
 13 (quoting *Hernandez v. City of El Monte*, 138 F.3d 393, 399 (9th Cir. 1998)).

14 Here, an additional 90 days will not significantly impact the public's interest in
 15 expeditious resolution of litigation or the Court's need to manage its docket, or result in any
 16 prejudice to Defendants. The public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits weighs
 17 against dismissing the action at this time. Allowing Plaintiffs 90 days is a reasonable and less
 18 drastic alternative. Accordingly, the Court concludes dismissal for lack of prosecution is not
 19 proper at this time, and therefore, ORDERS Plaintiffs to file a motion for default judgment or a
 20 status report within 90 days.

21 Dated this 22nd day of July, 2022.

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23 MICHELLE L. PETERSON
 United States Magistrate Judge